

The background features a white surface with several thin, light gray lines. Some are solid and curve across the frame, while others are dashed. A prominent blue callout box is centered, containing the main text. The box has a rectangular top and a pointed bottom.

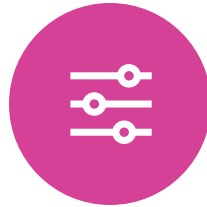
Applying to Graduate School

Division of Career Pathways, University of California, Irvine

Overview



**REASONS TO GO TO
GRADUATE SCHOOL**



TYPES OF PROGRAMS



**SELECTING AND
RESEARCHING
PROGRAMS**



**APPLICATION
PROCESS**



**STATEMENT OF
PURPOSE**



**LETTERS OF
RECOMMENDATION**

Should I Go?

You should go if...

- You know your career goal and you need to go to graduate school to get there

You should NOT go if...

- You're not sure what you want to do
- You're trying to postpone the job search
- All your friends are going

Types of Programs

- **Professional**
- **Masters**
- **Ph.D.**



Masters vs. Ph.D.

MASTERS PROGRAMS:

- 1-3 years
- Purpose – Solid education in a specialized field
- May study part-time while working
- Receive less or no financial help
- Course work and may include thesis/project or practical training/ internship/rotation

PH.D. PROGRAMS:

- 5+ years
- Purpose – To give you an extensive knowledge of your field; train you to do original and meaningful research; and prepare you to function as a faculty member
- Typically, more funding is available
- Course work and dissertation

What Should I Consider When Evaluating Grad Schools/Programs?

- Program Focus
- Faculty
- Ranking
- Research
- Geographic location
- Accreditation
- Internship/placement opportunities
- Cost/financial assistance
- Size



Resources

- **Websites:**
 - www.gradschools.com
 - www.petersons.com
- **Graduate School Fair (Fall Quarter)**
- **Law School Fair (Fall Quarter)**
- **Health Professions Fair (Spring Quarter)**
- **Graduate Resource Center**
- **Graduate School Guides**
 - **Peterson's Guide, ABA Guide to Law School**



Financial Assistance

- FAFSA
- Types of funding
 - Grants
 - Scholarships
 - Fellowships
 - Assistantships
 - Loans
- Think outside the box

Application Checklist

- Application for school and program
- Application fee
- Financial Aid application
- Transcripts
- Test Scores
- Resume/Curriculum Vitae
- Supplemental Essays
- Research
- Work/Volunteer Experience
- Statement of Purpose
- Letters of Recommendation

Application Timeline



WHEN TO APPLY



**WHEN TO TAKE THE
ADMISSION TEST(S)**



**WHEN TO ASK FOR
LETTERS OF
RECOMMENDATION**

Statement of Purpose

Purpose of the statement....

- **Convince school to accept you**
- **Sample of your writing skills**

What should it include?

- **Why that particular school/program**
- **Your related work/academic experiences**

Make sure you address the right school

Letters of Recommendation

Format – form or letter

Who should you ask

When should you ask

Provide each recommender with:

- Resume & Statement of Purpose
- Forms or Guidelines
- Deadlines
- Correct address
- Thank you note

[Interfolio.com](https://www.interfolio.com)

UCI Center for Writing in Excellence in Communication

Final Recommendations

- **Begin the application process early!**
- **Plan your budget for applying**
- **Follow a timetable**
- **Retain copies of materials sent**
- **Document all personal contact with prospective schools**
- **Have a “Plan B” (See a Career Counselor)**
- **If you are preparing far in advance – cultivate relationships with faculty and potential recommenders now!**